

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 04997 161200Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 FBO-02 /028 W
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R 161111Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 524
INFO AMCONS KARACHI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4997

DEPT FOR DASS, A/SY/FO AND SY/T (VEA); POSTS FOR RSS FILES
FROM RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: NOB LAGOS

1. RSO AND RSS VISITED CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR SUBJECT NOB
AS WELL AS REVIEWED PLANS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO POST AND TO
ON-SITE FBO PROJECT SUPERVISOR RE INTERNAL SECURITY. FROM
"SKETCHY" INFO AVAILABLE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SY PROPOSALS
WILL BE EFFECTIVE, RECOGNIZING WE MAY NOT HAVE A FULL PICTURE
HERE. HOWEVER, OUR OBSERVATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. JUDGING FROM LOCATION OF PROPOSED MSG ENCLOSURE, POSITIVE
CONTROLS AND INSPECTION CAN BE EXERCISED ONLY OVER THOSE VISITORS
TO UPPER LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICES AND AMERICANS VISITING CONSULAR
OFFICERS. IT APPEARS VISA APPLICANTS AND VISITORS TO COMMERCIAL
REFERENCE LIBRARY WILL NOT BE SCREENED.

B. WHILE TERRORISM AS SUCH NOT RECENT HISTORY IN LAGOS, WE
LOOK TO FUTURE WHEN THIS MAY NOT BE THE CASE. SINCE DEPT.
HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TERRORISM IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE, WE THINK,
AT THIS MOST OPPORTUNE TIME, WE SHOULD INSTALL THOSE DEVICES,
EQUIPMENT AND POSITIVE CONTROLS TO COMBAT THIS THREAT.
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C. WE NOTE THAT INTERIOR DOORS LEADING TO VISA SECTION
AND INTERIOR CORRIDOR ON OPPOSITE SIDE ARE TO BE GLASS/ALUMINUM
AND THAT VISA AND MSG COUNTERS ARE DEPICTED AS GLASS, LATER
SHOWN AS LEXGUARD. WE URGE THAT OPAQUE AND TRANSPARENT ARMORING
MATERIALS, TO DEFEAT AK-47 ROUND, BE INSTALLED AND THAT ARMORED
VISA COUNTER BE CONTINUOUS EXPANSE BROKEN ONLY WITH APPROPRIATE

SERVICE WINDOWS WITH PASS TRAYS.

D. IT APPEARS THAT AN AMERICAN VISITING CONSULAR OFFICER WILL BE SUBJECTED TO SCREENING BY MSG, WHILE VISA APPLICANT REQUIRING CONSULTATION WITH VISA OFFICER WILL ENTER UNSCREENED THROUGH DOOR AT END OF VISA COUNTER. THIS LOOPHOLE AS WELL AS SELECTIVE SCREENING COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.

E. OUR SUGGESTION IS THAT INSPECTION COUNTER OR BOX BE INSTALLED AT MSG COUNTER; THAT LOCAL RECEPTIONIST BE CO-LOCATED AT THAT POINT; THAT A WALK-THRU METAL DETECTOR BE INSTALLED AND APPROPRIATE BARRIERS BE DESIGNED TO REQUIRE ALL VISITORS GOING ANYWHERE TO FLOW PAST THE MSG PRIOR TO ACCESS TO ANY AREAS OFF THE LOBBY. POSITIVE CONTROLS WOULD HAVE TO BE PLACED ON INGRESS DOORS FROM LOBBY.

F. STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT OTHER HARDWARE ITEMS, SUCH AS ALARM/PA SYSTEM, AS WELL AS THE STANDARD DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT AND THE MEANS TO USE IT BE INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE.

G. RSO/RSS JUST VISITED AND INSPECTED NEWLY COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION BUILDING LOCATED TWO BLOCKS FROM OUR NOB. WHILE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN DIFFERS SUBSTANTIALLY, THEY HAVE INSTALLED HEAVY LAMINATED "GLASS" (BULLET RESISTANT?) ON ALL WINDOWS/DOORS, AND MOTORIZED ROLL-DOWN METAL SHUTTERS OVER ALL OUTSIDE ENTRANCES AND INTERIOR ENTRANCE TO EXECUTIVE SUITE. THEIR RECEPTION BOOTH IS ALSO ARMORED AND HAS ELECTRONIC TALK-THRU SYSTEM AND PASS SLOT.

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H. BOTH BRITISH AND AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS WERE TARGETS OF NIGERIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN FEBRUARY 1976. ASSUME WE WOULD ALSO BE IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT EXTERIOR GLASS WINDOWS WILL AGAIN BE VULNERABLE. CONSULAR OFFICER HAS REQUESTED WINDOWS ON BACK SIDE FOR ALL OFFICES.

2. ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY ELIMINATE NEED FOR PROPOSED SECOND MSG POST IN REAR CORRIDOR, BUT WE NEED CLARIFICATION ON THAT PROPOSAL.

3. WITH SOVIET EMBASSY NEARBY, WE THINK BUILDING PLANS SHOWN INCLUDE AN ACR AND, IF AGREED, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE THIS SUGGESTION TO THE POST. WHILE WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL THE NOB WITH EMBOFFS, WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT CONCURRENCE THIS MESSAGE SINCE ASSUMPTION IS WE STILL IN PLANNING STAGE ON INTERIOR SY CONTROLS.

STEARNS

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